URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR
1965

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR F. CRAWLEY

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLOR S. J. MORLEY

COUNCILLORS

A. A. CLAY
G. W. GRIFFIN
S. W. INGHAM
P. W. MASON
F. JAMES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (retd)(to August, 1965)
Dr. P. Lavis, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From September, 1965)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Borough of Buckingham, the Urban Districts of Bletchley and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks. and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks. Division and Buckingham and Winslow Districts).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. R. Laslett, M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H. (to May, 1965)
Dr. J. P. Hutchby, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (from Oct. 1965)

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. F. Hopkin, A.M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
60 High Street,
NEWPORT PAGNELL.

6th June, 1966

To the Chairman and Members
of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1965.

As I have been your Medical Officer for the final quarter of the year only, most of the work recorded herein was administered by my predecessor, Dr. D. H. Waldron. For this report, therefore, I am following the general arrangement laid down by him.

Vital Statistics

The birth rate fell slightly but is still much higher than the national figure. The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales fell to a record low (19) in 1965 and reflects a continuing improvement in the variety of services and skills devoted to expectant mothers and their families. Newport Pagnell can feel justifiably pleased that not one infant died during the first year of life, in 1965, an achievement approached only by your neighbouring area, Wolverton U.D. While too much emphasis must not be placed on figures for a single year, especially with the relatively small numbers involved (107 births), great credit is due to the mothers, doctors and nurses involved. To complete the happy picture, there was no maternal death.

At the other end of the scale, the death rate is well below the national average. The main causes of death are now well defined and point to the areas where future preventive services must lie. These are diseases of the

heart and circulation and various forms of Cancer. No death resulted from tuberculosis and the infectious diseases generally are becoming well controlled (though the risk of importation of many diseases must not be ignored.)

Food Hygiene

With the rapidly accelerating trend towards prepacked foodstuffs, and the tendency to longer storage of certain commodities extra vigilance by the public is becoming necessary. Health Inspectors are only too well aware of the dangers from improper treatment and storage, but it is impossible for inspections to be made on all food premises frequently enough. The next stage in health education will be to offer demonstrations, talks and courses on food hygiene to people concerned in food retailing. Your Health Inspector and I hope employers will recognize the benefits of a hygiene conscious staff and will enable them to attend these courses. As far as the general public is concerned, I would appeal to each individual to patronize only those shops where unwrapped food (especially meat products and pastries) are handled with tongs or tissue paper.

I do not want to paint all retailers as the villains in this matter, especially in view of the amount of mishandling of food that occurs in many households. I am planning to tackle this problem of educating the consumer where this is necessary concurrently with the courses to the retailer. A great deal of minor, and sometimes major illness is caused through mishandling food. "Upset tummies" can sometimes prove dangerous. The majority of this illness is never reported in the statistics on food poisoning.

Staff

Your present Medical Officer took office on 31st August, 1965 after Dr. Waldron's retirement on August 15th. Dr. Laslett resigned in May and his successor, Dr. Hutchby, was appointed on 25th October.

My introduction to the district has been made easy by the helpful co-operation which your Clerk and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Hopkin have shown.

I am, your obedient servant,

P. Lavis,

Medical Officer of Health.

NEWPORT PAGNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1965

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1965	1964
Area (in acres)	3,432	3,432
Population	5,430	5,260
Number of Inhabited houses	1,965	1,945
Rateable Value	£253,048	£245,724
Rate per pound	10/8	9/10
Product of a 1d. rate	£1013	£967

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Legitimate (males)	46	55
" (females)	57	54
Illegitimate (males)	1	2
" (females)	3	1
Stillbirths	1	3
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (adjusted)	24.6	26.6
" " " " " (Bucks.)	19.6	20.1
" " " " " (Eng. & W.)	18.1	18.4

DEATHS

Males	37	40
Females	49	63
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (adjusted)	6.9	9.9
" " " " " (Bucks.)	8.9	8.7
" " " " " (Eng. & W.)	11.3	11.3

DEATHS (Cont'd)

	1965	1964
Maternal Mortality	NIL	NIL
Maternal Mortality (Bucks.)	0.28	0.37
Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 births).	NIL	17.9
Infant Mortality (Bucks.)	14.9	16.7
Infant Mortality (England & Wales)	19.0	20.0

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH	1965			1964		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Cancer: Stomach	0	2	2			
Lung, bronchus	3	0	3	8	8	16
Breast	0	1	1			
Other	5	4	9			
Vascular lasions of nervous system	3	9	12	7	14	21
Heart Diseases	13	18	31	14	17	31
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	1	1	0	2	2
Pneumonia	3	9	12	5	14	19
Bronchitis	6	1	7	2	3	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2	1	1	2
Accidents	0	1	1	0	1	1
All other causes	3	2	5	3	3	6
Total	37	49	86	40	63	103

SECTION B
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton. Samples of sewage for chemical analysis were sent to the Analyst, Great Ouse River Board.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These services are administered by the County Council and are controlled in the North Bucks. Area from a station at Bletchley. In Newport Pagnell three ambulances are maintained, supplemented, if necessary by ambulances from other Districts.

3. NURSING SERVICES

District nurses, health visitors, midwives are stationed in Newport Pagnell to carry out work in the town and surrounding areas.

4. CLINICS

Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic which is held at the Congregational School on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, is attended by a Medical Officer, Health Visitor, District Nurse and of course members of the Voluntary Committee. During the year there were 1885 attendances by children.

5. HOME HELP

This service is administered by the County Council. It appears that most needs are being met at present.

6. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Organised by the Regional Hospital Board. This Clinic meets fortnightly on a Friday.

7. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have served this area:-

Northampton General Hospital

Bedford County Hospital

Royal Bucks. Hospital, Aylesbury

Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury

Harborough Road Isolation Hospital

Renny Lodge Hospital

Westbury Maternity Home

Creaton Sanatorium

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The town has continued to be served with water by the Bucks. Water Board from the Ash Hill and Foxcote sources.

No restrictions were imposed on the use of the Public Water supply for domestic and trade purposes during the year but its use for gardening and the washing of vehicles was restricted.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Discussions on the growth of the population in the Urban District and surrounding area have taken place at various levels during the year and with this subject not definitely concluded the planning by the Council to meet the ultimate needs of the town from a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal point of view has been delayed. During the winter months the Sewage works has been overloaded mainly by reason of infiltration of the sewers by sub-soil water and the discharge of surface water into domestic drainage sytems. Some local surcharge of sewers in the western end of the town has occurred.

The Council have both these items in mind and its Consulting Engineers are at present preparing a report and proposals for the remedying of these faults.

During the year the commencement of the proposal to resewer the High Street was undertaken and a proposal to sewer Chicheley Street was approved. This later scheme will bring 14 dwellings onto the main sewerage system which were previously drained by cesspool systems

and it will provide sewerage facilities for approximately 130 new dwellings, 10 of which are under construction.

In the case of all new buildings the Council are endeavouring to arrange for the separation of surface water from the foul drainage systems either by discharging surface water into surface water sewers where available or into ditches and into land soakaways where this is feasible. There is no doubt that in the near future future years the Council must seriously consider a scheme of "Separation" for the older portion of the town or of resewering these areas.

As referred to in the report of Dr. Waldron last year the disposal of sludge at the Sewage Works continues to be a serious problem. With the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works and the towns increased population this item is one which must be met if serious nuisance is to be avoided.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

No alterations in the sytem of Refuse Collection and Disposal in the town has been carried out during the year. Considerable interest is shown by the Council and the public in the paper storage bag for use in domestic properties but owing to financial reasons the Council have not been able to adopt the system excepting for a further small number of Council dwellings.

Transport for this service is by one Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft tipping type Refuse Freighter with bulk loading attachment for use at the Motorway Service Area and Aston Martin Works. This vehicle is used seven days per week and consequently servicing of the vehicle requires special arrangements. The Council also have a Karrier side load refuse collection lorry which is maintained for standby and other general duties.

The tipping area at Willen Road continues to be used but with the probable growth of the town expected the Council should consider it's Refuse Disposal policy.

SECTION D - HOUSING ACT

During the year no new Council houses were completed but a scheme for the erection of 57 dwellings (Flats and Houses) on the Whitethorns estate was commenced. It is expected that the first of the houses will be available for occupation early in 1966 and the whole scheme completed by mid-summer. The Council's proposal for the removal of Nos. 82 to 110 Tickford Street and the redevelopment of the site by the erection of 33 Old Persons flats has made some progress and it is expected that building will commence in 1966. The scheme is for two storey development and it also provides for a communal hall and a Warden's flat. At the end of the year 11 private enterprise houses were being constructed.

During the year several unfit properties in Priory Street were closed. The Council have adopted a redevelopment plan for this area, if possible by means of private enterprise and it had been hoped that re-building in this district would be commenced as it is now, under the present Town Plan, one of the few remaining areas available for residential development.

Property owners successfully applied for Standard grants in respect of 13 dwellings and 8 Improvement Grant proposals were approved.

SECTION E

.. Highway Scavenging

The District Highways and part of the Classified ighways continue to be cleansed by the Urban District ouncil by manual methods, by Street Sweeper and rderly hand truck. The Council's Highways Committee ave considered the use of mechanical sweeping methods nd demonstrations using various appliances have been eld in the town. The Council, however, have decided o continue with the manual methods although it is aware hat the position with regard to the employment of the abour required for this class of work is becoming more ifficult to recruit.

. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

At the end of the year there were 76 premises egistered with the Council in respect of the Act and of hese 45 had been inspected in a detailed manner.

The analysis of persons employed in these premises ere as follows:-

pe of Premises	Number of Premises	Persons Employed
fices	16	89
ops	50	198
rehouses	2	7
tering Establishments*	4	286
el Storage Depots	4	17
tal	76	597

tal Males 221. Total Females 376

*Includes Motorway Service Area

During the inspections a total of 162 faults were observed and the owners attention called to these items.

3. FACTORIES ACT 1961

During the year one additional factory commenced production and various extensions to existing undertakings have been completed. The Council's concern in these establishments being mainly connected with Sanitary Accommodation there is no special items to report.

4. FOOD HYGIENE ETC.

During the year an incident of Salmonella infection occurred in the town. The incident involved the staff of a food preparing premise and this was voluntarily closed by the proprietor. The use of casual labour by catering undertakings, particularly at functions away from their normal establishments, was emphasised in this case and rendered the investigation more difficult.

It would appear that there is a growing awareness in the public as to the need for cleanliness in food preparation and service as during the year several complaints were received as to the failure of the staff of Food Distributors to maintain a satisfactory standard.

Complaints mostly involve the sale of stale or unsatisfactory foodstuff but one complaint was of an uncleanly utensil. All complaints were carefully investigated and it would appear that carelessness or lack of knowledge on the part of staff is the chief factor in the breakdown of normal service. The engagement of casual staff at busy periods when supervisory staff are overstressed is a growing practice but not one to be recommended.

Generally my department have found the management of catering and food distributive concerns to be very much aware of their responsibilities and they are anxious to co-operate in promoting cleanliness in their establishments.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in this district and meat in carcass form is obtained from Bedford, Northampton and Luton

6. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

During the year 1036 inspections of properties in the town were carried out and 56 properties were treated for rat infestation. For the second year in succession the sewers proved to be entirely clear of rat infestation. This work is undertaken by the North Bucks. Area Rodent Committee on behalf of the Council.

7. UNSOUND FOOD

It was necessary to accept the surrender of very little food stuff during the year and that taken comprised:

Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit	Meat & Meat Products.
48lbs. 8½ ozs.	28 lb. 15 ozs.	5 lbs. 6½ ozs.

Canned Fish	Canned Milk
4 oz.	8½ pts.

8. PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

During 1965 two samples of water were taken from your Swimming Pool; and proved to be very satisfactory.

The weather experienced during this season was the worst since the pool opened with the consequent fall in attendance of 15,224 swimmers and 2,513 spectators, a total of 17,737 persons who took advantage of the facility.

No action was taken by the Council in agreeing to the heating and roofing over the Pool.

SECTION F

1. GENERAL

A long continued outbreak of measles featured in 1965. The only other matter of note was an outbreak of food poisoning that occurred outside the district, but involved a number of Newport Pagnell inhabitants. The organism involved, Salmonella indiana is rare in this country, and proved difficult to eradicate. Unfortunately, by the time notification was received it was impossible to trace the source of the infection with any degree of certainty.

2. NOTIFICATIONS

	1965	1964
Measles	57	6
Food Poisoning	8	-

3. TUBERCULOSIS

No new cases were reported and no deaths occurred from this cause.

P. Lavis

Medical Officer of Health.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1937 - 1959

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number On Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ≠	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	24	27	1	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ≠ (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	9	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	28	36	1	NIL

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found. Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Cons.(S.7.) (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 110 & 111)

IN THE DISTRICT THERE WERE TWO REGISTERED OUTWORKERS DURING 1965. BOTH WERE ENGAGED IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY.